

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention includes *in vitro* methods of inducing and enhancing proliferation of human marrow stromal cells for use in, for example, gene therapy and transplantation methods. The invention also includes a method of assessing the expandability (i.e.,  
5 proliferative capacity) of human marrow stromal cells. In addition, the invention includes a conditioned medium for enhancing proliferation of human marrow stromal cells.